

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/528,448
Amendment filed April 20, 2007
Reply to OA dated January 23, 2007

REMARKS

Claims 8, 9 and 15 are amended in order to change their dependency in view of cancelling Claims 1 and 2. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. It is believed that this amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2007.

The present invention is a dial module having a dial with a design part, a sheet-shaped light source for illuminating the design part and a flexible printed circuit fixed to a back surface of the light source. The dial is formed on a front surface of the light source.

Claims 1 - 8 are rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Salmon et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,406,303). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Salmon et al. teaches a dial module comprising a sheet shaped dial (30) with a design part on the front face (Fig. 6), a sheet-shaped light source (26) fixed to the back surface of the dial for illuminating the design part, a flexible printed circuit board (24) fixed to the back surface of the light source (26), a terminal part (Fig. 6) for attaching an additional component thereto (motors 22), and the dial, light source, and circuit board are substantially the same shape.

It is respectfully submitted that Salmon et al. does not disclose or suggest the features of independent Claims 3, 5 and 7 or the claims dependent thereon. Salmon et al. does not describe or suggest forming the dial on a front surface of the light source (Claim 3), providing a flexible printed circuit on a back surface of the light source (Claim 5) or a light source having a design part formed

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on its front surface and a flexible printed circuit formed on its back surface (Claim 7). Although it is mentioned in details of the rejection that a flexible printed circuit board (24) is fixed to the back surface of the light source (26), it can be seen in Fig. 6 that such arrangement is not found. It is respectfully submitted that the claimed features of Claims 3, 5 and 7 are not disclosed or suggested by Salmon et al.

Claims 1 and 2 are cancelled and Claims 8, 9 and 15 are amended to have the proper dependency. In view of the cancelling of Claims 1 and 2, and amending of Claims 8, 9 and 15, and the above remarks, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection under 35 USC §103:

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon et al. in view of Garay et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,183,099). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Salmon et al. teaches the basic invention described above, but lacks the teaching of an electroluminescent light source, however it is alleged that Garay et al. teaches the use of an electroluminescent light source for illuminating a dial (col. 1, lines 14 - 20).

In view of Claim 9 depending from independent Claims 3, 5 and 7, which are discussed above, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

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Claim 15 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Salmon et al. in view of Kumazawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,333,697). Reconsideration and removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is alleged in the Office Action that Salmon et al. teaches the basic invention described above, but lacks the teaching of a frame board in front of the dial, front glass in front of the frame board, and a casing arranged in the rear of the dial for fixing the dial between the frame board and casing. It is further alleged that Kumazawa et al. teaches a frame board (60) in front of a dial (30), front glass (142) in front of the frame board, and a casing (10) arranged in the rear of the dial for fixing the dial between the frame board and casing (Fig. 3).

In view of Claim 15 depending from independent Claims 3, 5 and 7, which are discussed above, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

It is believed that Claims 3 - 9 and 15 are patentable over the prior art and now in condition for allowance. Allowance of Claims 3 - 9 and 15 is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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